

Testimony in Opposition of SB390

Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee

February 21, 2012

Submitted by: Les Meyer, Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery, 18807 - 158th St., Basehor, KS 66007 (Leavenworth County)

I am opposed to Line 24 (c) which calls for the reduction of Kansas grapes in Kansas wine. Reducing the volume of Kansas grown grapes from 60% to 10% benefits no one. In fact it hurts the farmers, grape growers and the wineries. I am a proud grape grower and have developed many growing relationships with other grape growers. If we don't have any requirement for Kansas grapes what happens to all the grape growers who spent their time and considerable dollars putting in a vineyard? These growers were encouraged by winery owners to grow grapes with the promise that there would be a market. If you take away the agricultural content then the growers are likely to lose their market. This benefits no one, least of all the people the original farm winery law was introduced to help and that is the farmer/grape grower. Farm wineries have the word farm in them for a reason...grapes are grown on a farm with Kansas dirt around their roots and the farmer cultivates his vineyard and the winemaker (often the same person) creates a value added product for others to enjoy. This seems pretty clear cut to me. Kansas wine = Kansas grapes. Just like your own gardens that you tend to with loving care and share with your family. Who doesn't love that first ripe tomato? And isn't it even better knowing it was grown in your own backyard? The same with Kansas wine. Farm winery consumers expect it to be grown here too; it is just plain deceptive to offer Kansas wine that wasn't Kansas grown.

Line 12 (1) I am not opposed to the sale of wine by the bottle at special events (for consumption off the event premise).

Line 25 (5) I am not opposed to selling wine by the bottle for consumption on the licensed premise. I oppose selling wine by the glass.

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